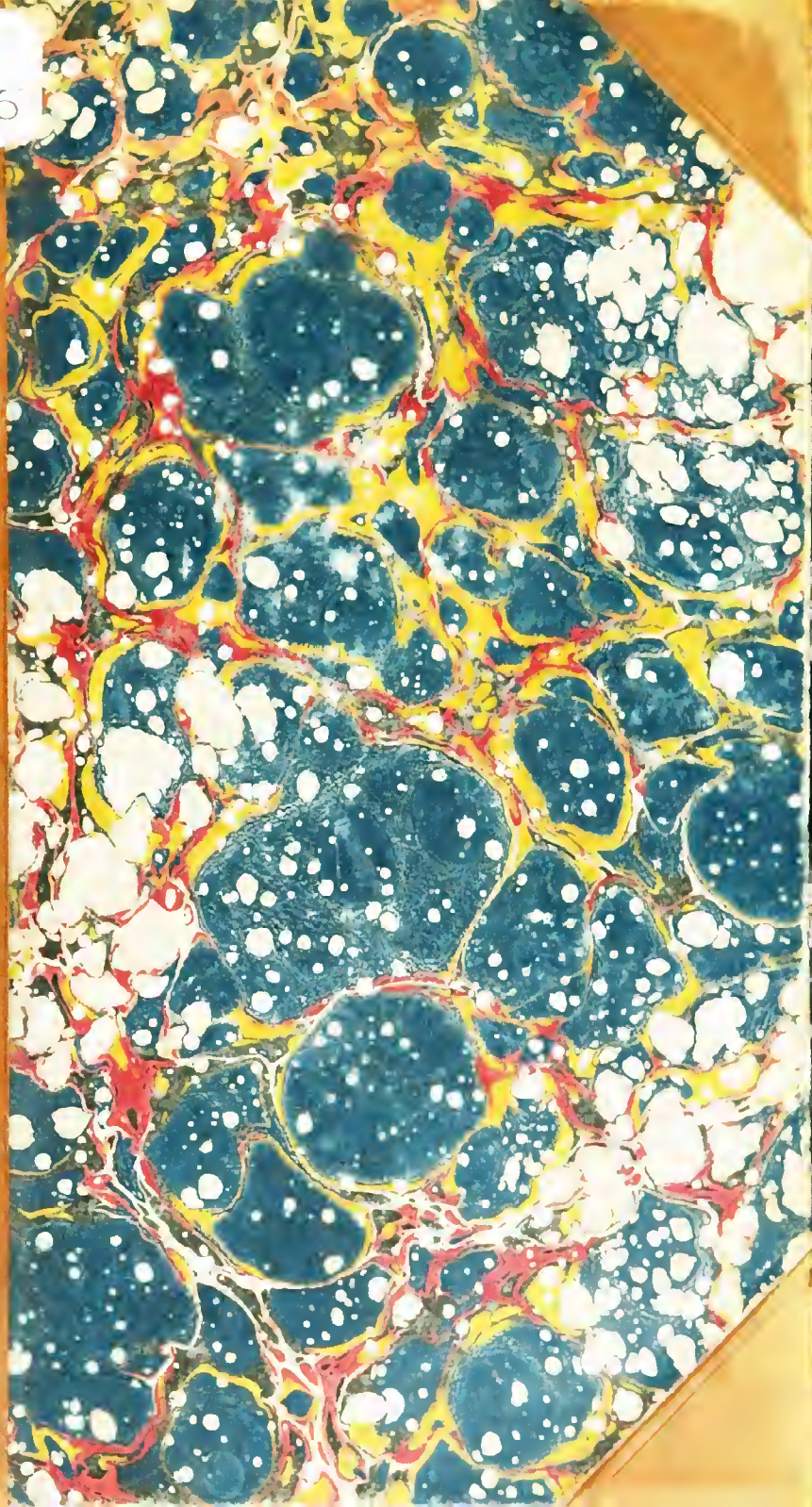


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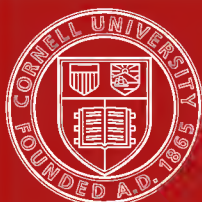
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Memoir of the late John Bowyer Nichols,



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MEMOIR
OF
JOHN BOWYER NICHOLS, ESQ.,
F.S.A., &c. &c.

Perfect Rare
Privately Printed
Presentation copy



James Cromerford?

25 Eaton Place, Brighton

Sunday evening

May 30

My dear Sir,

I have been quite delighted
five minutes ago to lay my
hand unexpectedly on your Memoirs
of the Duke of Newcastle, in
search of which I have
repeatedly spent a morning
without success. I own
its discovery to the comfort
of my library having been taken

up this last week, and
the papers upon my table
having consequently been turned
over, among which it might
have been concealed, though
I have looked there as well
as elsewhere

I will immediately return
you the book, and at the
same time I take the
opportunity of asking you

announcement of a copy of a
manuscript of my Father which
I have just submitted, accom-
panied by his photographs.

I remain, Dear Sir,

Very sincerely yours

John George Nichols

W. Debonnaire Fitzgerald Esq

P.S. Write me from me with
a line to say whether you are
at home, that I may be sure



P. Nichols F. S. A.

MEMOIR

OF THE LATE

JOHN BOWYER NICHOLS, ESQ.,

• F.S.A., F.L.S., &c., &c.

SENIOR REGISTRAR OF THE ROYAL LITERARY FUND.

Reprinted, with some slight additions, from
"The Gentleman's Magazine."



WESTMINSTER,
MARCH, 1864.

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N^o. 25.

Presented to *W. Debonaire Haggard*
Esq. F.R.S.

May 30, 1864.

By

John George Nichols

JOHN BOWYER NICHOLS, ESQ., F.S.A.

ON the 19th of October, 1863, died, at his residence, Hanger Vale, Ealing, Middlesex, aged 84, John Bowyer Nichols, Esq., Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and of the Linnean, Horticultural, and Zoological Societies, Member of the Royal Society of Literature, and one of the Registrars of the Royal Literary Fund Society.

Mr. Nichols was the only surviving son of Mr. John Nichols, F.S.A. London, Edinburgh, and Perth, the Historian of Leicestershire, the Literary Biographer of the Eighteenth Century, and for forty-eight years the Editor of the *Gentleman's Magazine*; ^a the disciple and successor of William Bowyer the learned printer, and one of the friends of the last days of Dr. Samuel Johnson.

Mr. Bowyer Nichols was the eldest child of his father's second marriage with Martha, daughter of Mr. William Green, of Hinckley, in Leicestershire; was born in Red Lion Passage, in the parish of St. Bride, Fleet Street, on the 15th of July, 1779; and received his baptismal name of Bowyer in respect to the memory of his father's early friend and benefactor.

His mother having delicate health, and dying in 1788, after giving birth to a numerous family, his youthful years were chiefly spent with his maternal grandfather and his great-uncle Mr. William Iliffe, at Hinckley, and he received the first portion of his education from the Rev. William Brown, at the neighbouring village of Stoke Golding. It was continued

^a The memoir of Mr. Nichols which appeared in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for Dec. 1826 (accompanied by the last portrait which was taken of him) was written by Mr. Alexander Chalmers, F.S.A., the editor of the *General Biographical Dictionary*.

under the Rev. Dr. Roberts at St. Paul's School, which he left in Sept. 1796, and then joined his father in business, to which he attended through life with constant application and assiduity.

Among his duties, from an early age, was that of assisting in the editorship of the *Gentleman's Magazine*; and the contributions which he made to its pages, when not signed with his initials, had usually the signature of N. R. S., being the final letters of his name. In 1833 Mr. Nichols became the sole proprietor of the *Gentleman's Magazine* (of which he was previously only a shareholder with the descendants of Edward Cave and David Henry), and in 1834 he transferred a share to the late Mr. William Pickering, publisher in Piccadilly, the late Rev. John Mitford, the editor of *Gray*, being constituted the principal Editor. Having subsequently re-purchased that share, he in 1856 conveyed the whole property to Mr. J. H. Parker of Oxford.

To his father's great literary coadjutor, Richard Gough, Director S.A., the editor of *Camden's Britannia*, and author of the "*Sepulchral Monuments of Great Britain*," Mr. Bowyer Nichols in early life rendered material services, more particularly in re-editing the *Histories of the Counties of Surrey and Dorset*.

The second edition of the *History of Surrey*, which was originally compiled by the Rev. Owen Manning, was undertaken in 1803, at the persuasion of Mr. Gough, by William Bray, Esq., of Shere, then Treasurer of the Society of Antiquaries; who, in the preface to the second volume, which appeared in 1810, after alluding to the death of Mr. Gough, added, that the labours, which in consequence had devolved upon him "had been rendered light by the indefatigable attention and very great accuracy of Mr. John Bowyer Nichols, who left him little to correct, except errors of his own."

"*The History of Dorsetshire*," by the late Rev. John Hutchins, was in like manner proceeding to a second edition

under the superintendence of Mr. Gough, when the whole impression of the third volume (then nearly complete) was consumed in the fire which destroyed the printing-office of Messrs. Nichols in the year 1808. That volume was afterwards reprinted, amplified into volumes III. and IV., which were published in 1813 and 1815, having been arranged for the press by the industry of the subject of this memoir, under the direction of his father. (See the particulars more fully related in the "Literary Illustrations," vol. viii. p. 568, and in the Prefaces to the History itself.)

We may mention further, in regard to English topography, that from Mr. Nichols's press proceeded also the greater portion of the most magnificent volumes that have ever been produced in that department of literature: as, Ormerod's "History of Cheshire," in three volumes folio; Clutterbuck's "History of Hertfordshire," in three volumes folio; Surtees's "History of Durham," in four volumes folio; Raine's "History of North Durham," in one volume folio; Sir R. C. Hoare's "History of South Wiltshire and of the City of Salisbury," in five volumes folio; Hunter's "History of South Yorkshire," in two volumes folio; Baker's "History of Northamptonshire," (left imperfect in one volume and part of the next); Whitaker's Histories of Whalley and of Craven; Dallaway's "History of the Rape of Arundel," (as re-edited by Cartwright); Cartwright's "History of the Rape of Bramber;" the commencement of Lipscomb's "History of Buckinghamshire," and the commencement of Phelps's "History of Somersetshire." At the period of Mr. Nichols's death a third edition of Hutchins's "Dorsetshire," in folio, was proceeding from his press, and a fourth Part had just been published.

Mr. Nichols was also, during the whole of his business life, one of the printers of the *Votes and Proceedings of the Honourable the House of Commons*; an appointment which had been held by his father, and by his predecessor Mr. Bowyer, from

the days of Mr. Speaker Onslow. In the year 1819 he removed from the neighbourhood of Fleet Street to Parliament Street, Westminster (carrying with him his tutelary ensign of *Cicero's Head*), in order that the Votes and other parliamentary papers issued with them might thenceforward be daily published with the regularity of a morning newspaper.

Among Mr. Bowyer Nichols's other occasional literary undertakings, we may mention the following:—

“*The Life and Errors of John Dunton*, Citizen of London; with the Lives and Characters of more than a thousand Contemporary Divines, and other Persons of Literary Eminence. To which are added, Dunton's Conversation in Ireland; Selections from his other genuine works, &c. 1818.” 8vo. This remarkable medley of biography had furnished very curious and valuable materials for “*The Literary Anecdotes of the Eighteenth Century*,” the fifth volume of which contains a long article upon the eccentric author. The “*Life and Errors*” is reviewed in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. LXXXVIII. i. 248, followed by a series of additional notes at pp. 292, 393, 441, 513, 599. These were chiefly communicated by the Rev. Edward Berwick, D.D.^a

“*The Athenian Oracle Abridged*; containing the most valuable Questions and Answers in the Original Works on History, Philosophy, Divinity, Law, and Marriage, published by John Dunton. 1820.” 8vo. (*See Gent. Mag.* 1820, ii. 241.)

Having been appointed printer to the Corporation of London (an appointment not long retained), Mr. Nichols was in 1819 induced to produce “*A Brief Account of the Guildhall of the City of London*,” in 8vo. (which is illustrated with two

^a The Rev. Edward Berwick, of Lugan, Chaplain to the Marquess of Hastings, and author of a *Life of Scipio*, was the editor of “*The Rawdon Papers*,” consisting of letters to and from Dr. John Bramhall, Primate of Ireland, printed and published by Messrs. Nichols in 1819, 8vo. Sir Arthur Rawdon, the second Baronet, married Helen Graham, whose grandmother, Isabella Countess of Menteith and Airth, was daughter and co-heiress of the Lord Primate.

excellent views of the ancient and modern structure, by John Carter and J. C. Buckler), reviewed in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for Jan. 1819, p. 42.

In 1824, on the destruction of the royal foundation of St. Katharine's near the Tower, in order to the formation of St. Katharine's Docks, Mr. Bowyer Nichols remodelled the old History of that establishment by Dr. A. C. Ducarel (4to. 1782), and published it, with the original and additional plates, under the title of an "*Account of the Royal Hospital and Collegiate Church of St. Katharine, near the Tower of London*," 1824. 4to. (See *Gent. Mag.* vol. xciv. i. 543.)

In the same year Mr. Nichols became, together with the present Sir Henry Ellis, one of the executors of the Rev. Thomas Maurice, M.A., Assistant Keeper of the Manuscripts of the British Museum; author of "*Indian Antiquities*," in 7 vols. 8vo. 1793-1800; the "*History of Hindoostan*," 1795-1799, 3 vols. 4to.; "*Westminster Abbey*," a Poem, 1784; "*Richmond Hill*," a Poem, 1807; and various other productions. That gentleman had left some autobiographical memoirs, the leading particulars of which were formed by Mr. Nichols into a long memoir, which was inserted in the obituary of the *Gentleman's Magazine* for May in the same year.

In 1826—within three weeks of the decease of his old friend the historian of Leicestershire—died Joseph Cradock, Esq., M.A., then the senior Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, formerly of Gumley, near Market Harborough, one of the associates of Dr. Samuel Johnson, a correspondent of Voltaire, and author of "*Zobeide, a tragedy*," and other literary productions. Mr. Cradock was a cousin of Mrs. Nichols, the first wife of Mr. Nichols senior, both being descended from Edward Cradock, mayor of Leicester in 1645 and 1657. Mr. Bowyer Nichols was left executor to this gentleman (together with the late Mr. William Tooke, F.R.S., who died scarcely a month before him); and he wrote the memoir, which was

accompanied by Mr. Cradock's portrait, in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for Jan. 1837, and afterwards edited Mr. Cradock's *Memoirs and Literary Works*, which together formed four octavo volumes.

In 1833 Mr. Bowyer Nichols followed the steps of his father as a commentator on the works of Hogarth. His compilation is a very interesting and valuable manual upon that subject, of which the contents are thus described in the title-page: "*Anecdotes of William Hogarth*, written by Himself; with Essays on his Life and Genius, and Criticisms on his Works, selected from Walpole, Gilpin, J. Ireland, Lamb, Phillips, and others. To which are added, a Catalogue of his Prints, accounts of their variations, and principal copies; lists of Paintings, Drawings, &c. 1833." 8vo. It is illustrated with forty-eight miniature plates, principally the work of John Mills.

In 1836 Mr. Nichols produced his "*Historical Notices of Fonthill Abbey, Wiltshire*," 4to., of which the letter-press was compiled from the previous books on the same subject by Mr. John Britton and Mr. John Rutter, and the plates were those which had illustrated the latter of those works, which had both been produced in 1823, when that extraordinary mansion was a great object of public curiosity. Mr. Nichols brought down the history of the Abbey to its final destruction. (See the *Gentleman's Magazine* for July, 1836, p. 58.)

A similar completion of the history of a modern structure of equal if not greater curiosity, was Mr. Nichols's "*Illustrations of Her Majesty's Palace at Brighton, formerly the Pavilion*:" published in folio, 1838. This work contains a series of magnificent plates, executed in the first instance by the command of King George the Fourth, under the superintendence of Mr. Nash the architect: but the history of the building (to a great part of which that favourite term of the elder Disraeli, *secret history*, might justly be applied,) was first collected by Mr. Nichols in this edition; to which was prefixed a descrip-

tion of the Palace from a survey made by Edward Wedlake Brayley, F.S.A., in 1836. Not long after, the desertion of Brighton for Osborne, in the Isle of Wight, closed the "Royal" period of the annals of the Pavilion.

Having been intimately acquainted with Mr. John Thomas Smith, Keeper of the Prints at the British Museum, author of "*The Antiquities of Westminster*," and of several other volumes relative to the manners and aspect of the metropolis in former times,^a upon his death Mr. Nichols purchased a series of unpublished etchings, with their descriptions, which had been prepared for a continuation of "*Vagabondiana*; a series of Forty-seven Etchings of remarkable Beggars, itinerant Traders, &c." that had been published in 1815. As a second volume of *Vagabondiana* Mr. Nichols edited the additional plates, with their descriptions, which had been prepared by Mr. Smith, with the assistance of Mr. Francis Douce, F.S.A., under the title of *The Cries of London*, 1839, 4to., to which he prefixed a memoir of Mr. Smith, accompanied by his portrait.

After the death of his kind friend and patron, Sir Richard Colt Hoare, the Wiltshire historian, Mr. Nichols was invited by Mr. Merrik Hoare, the brother and executor of that public-spirited antiquary, to form a catalogue of the large and valuable library left by Sir Richard as a heir-loom to his successors at Stourhead. This was printed (for private use only) in a very handsome octavo volume, entitled "*Catalogue of the Library at Stourhead, co. Wilts.* To which are added, An Account of the Museum of British Antiquities; a Catalogue of the Paintings and Drawings; and a Description of the Mansion: by the late Sir Richard Colt Hoare, Bart." 1840. At the annual meeting of the Wiltshire Archæological and Natural History Society, held on the 15th of Sept. 1854, Mr. Nichols communicated "Some Notices of the Library at Stourhead," comprising a review of the topographical labours

^a A posthumous book of Anecdotes on the same subject, and the *Life of Nollekens*, are also now to be added to the literary productions of this writer.

of all the coadjutors of Sir Richard Hoare and others who have devoted their attention to the history of Wiltshire; this was printed in the second volume of the "Wiltshire Archæological and Natural History Magazine," 1855.

The last literary task in which Mr. Nichols engaged was the continuation and completion of his father's "*Illustrations of the Literary History of the Eighteenth Century*," the sequel of the well-known "LITERARY ANECDOTES." He arranged and edited the seventh and eighth volumes of the "Illustrations," published in the years 1848 and 1858. They are occupied in great measure with the correspondence of Dr. Percy, Bishop of Dromore, and his literary friends, and contain also supplemental additions to the entire range of both series of the "Anecdotes" and "Illustrations," with various notices and correspondence of the author's immediate friends and contemporaries, extending necessarily, in some measure, into the literary history of the present century as well as the last.

Mr. Nichols was one of the oldest members of the Linnæan Society, to which he was introduced in 1812, and he was one of the few survivors of those who took part in the Sunday evening *soirées* of Sir Joseph Banks. It was owing to this connection that he became the publisher of "A Selection of the Correspondence of Linnæus, and other Naturalists, from the Original Manuscripts," edited by Sir James Edward Smith, M.D., F.R.S., President of the Linnæan Society, in two vols. 8vo. 1821.

He had also been a supporter of the Horticultural and Zoological Societies from the early days of their existence. In 1818 he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, to which he became printer in the year 1824, as his father had been at a previous period. He was not the author of any important memoir in the *Archæologia*, but the Society was frequently indebted to him for minor communications and exhibitions; and so was the Archæological Institute of Great Britain, of which he was an original member, as he was of the

Numismatic Society, the Royal Society of Literature, and the Athenæum Club.

He served all the annual offices of the Stationers' Company, and attained that of Master in 1850, as his father had done in 1804, and to the last he was a constant attendant at the meetings of its Court of Assistants. He presented to the court-room in 1836 a portrait of his father, by John Wood; and in 1855 supplemented by a gift of £500 Consols his father's benefaction for pensions to three poor printers, raising them thereby to £10 each. At the monthly meeting of the Court held next after his death, a resolution was passed expressive of the deep regret of the members for the loss of one who, "while distinguished for his literary attainments, and remarkable for his kind and courteous disposition, ever took an anxious interest in the welfare of this Company."

In 1821, on the resignation of his father, he succeeded to the office of one of the three Registrars of the Royal Literary Fund, to the business of which he subsequently paid, for more than forty years, a uniform and devoted attention. To the Royal Humane Society, in the foundation of which by Dr. Hawes his father was an active coadjutor, Mr. Bowyer Nichols gave his services for many years as one of the committee of management. In his own neighbourhood of Westminster he was a Governor of the Green Coat and Grey Coat Schools, and of St. Margaret's Hospital. He had been repeatedly a member of the direction of the Westminster Fire Office, and had very recently terminated his two last years of duty in that capacity.

Mr. Nichols inherited from his father many of his excellent qualities, among them an equability of temper which was seldom ruffled or disturbed, and his manners were courteous, conciliatory, and ingratiating. His general conduct was characterized by great industry and assiduous application, both to private and public business. In his domestic relations he was ever affectionate in his family, cordial to his friends, and considerate towards his dependents. Though burthened in his

latter years with various infirmities, one of which was loss of sight, that sense having gradually become impaired until it was wholly gone, he retained remarkable powers of memory and energy of purpose, with a continual interest in all that was passing around him, either in private or public affairs, and a judgment in no wise diminished from its wonted accuracy. He had both on the Tuesday and the Thursday before his death journeyed from Ealing into the City, for the transaction of important business; and to over-fatigue on the latter occasion was attributable the attack of congestion of the lungs, from which his bodily powers were not sufficient to rally, and under the exhausting effects of which he peacefully breathed his last, after only three days' illness.

He married, in 1805, Eliza, elder daughter of John Baker, Esq., of Salisbury Square, Fleet Street, surgeon, and subsequently of Hampstead (of whom a brief memoir is preserved in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1825, ii. 642), and by that lady, who died in 1846, he had issue fourteen children, of whom the survivors were three sons and four daughters. The former are, John Gough Nichols, Esq., of Parliament Street and Brighton; Robert Cradock Nichols, Esq., also of Parliament Street, an Associate of King's College, London; and Francis Morgan Nichols, Esq., M.A., Barrister-at-law, and late Fellow of Wadham College, Oxford. The two former are now Printers of the Votes and Proceedings of the Hon. House of Commons; and all three are Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries of London. The first married, in 1843, Lucy, eldest daughter of Frederick Lewis, Esq., Commander R.N., and has issue a son and a daughter; the last married, in 1857, Mary, daughter of the late Walter Buchanan, Esq., of Sussex Place, Hyde Park, a Magistrate for Middlesex, and has issue two sons and a daughter. Of Mr. Nichols's daughters the eldest is unmarried; Emma (deceased) was the wife of the late Thomas Griffiths, Esq., M.R.C.S., of Hammersmith, and has left one surviving daughter; Harriett, the third, is the wife

of the Rev. William Comyns Berkeley, son and heir-apparent of William Berkeley, Esq., of Cotheridge Court, Worcestershire, and has issue four sons; Isabella was married to George J. Elvey, Mus. D., of Windsor, and is deceased since her father (on the 22nd December, 1863), leaving issue three sons and one daughter; and Anna is the wife of William John Jarvis, Esq., of Oxford Terrace, Hyde Park, having one son and five daughters.

There are portraits of Mr. Nichols by John Jackson, R.A. (in water colours), about 1818; by F. Hopwood (in pencil), 1821; by John Wood (in oil), 1836; and by Samuel Lawrence (in chalks), 1850.^a From the last there is a private lithograph by J. H. Lynch. His bust was chiselled by W. Behnes, and exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1858. Prefixed to the present memoir is a photograph taken in 1860 by Messrs. Kent and Hennah, of Brighton.

Mr. Nichols's funeral took place on Saturday the 24th of October, in the Kensal Green Cemetery, where he had erected a family tomb upon the death of his wife. The attendant mourners were limited to his immediate relatives, accompanied by the Rev. E. W. Relton, Vicar of Ealing, by whom the last rites were performed; but the grave was surrounded by a large concourse of those to whom Mr. Nichols had given employment from their boyhood, and many of whom had grown grey in his service.

Mr. Nichols formed large collections illustrative of English topography, consisting not only of the county histories and other books of local history and genealogy, but also of drawings, engravings, printed papers, and rubbings of sepulchral brasses, which he arranged in parishes, having several portfolios for most of the counties. As he has made no specific disposition of these collections, they will be brought to public sale, with the greater part of his library, in the ensuing spring; his manuscripts only, and a selection of printed books to the value of £200, are bequeathed to his eldest son.



THE ARMS OF JOHN BOWYER NICHOLS, ESQ.

REGISTERED AT THE COLLEGE OF ARMS, 1861.

Arms: Azure, on a fesse humettée, between three lion's heads erased or, two eagles rising of the field. Crest: A lion's head erased azure, gorged with a collar gemel or, between two wings paly of six, or and azure.

APPENDIX.

I.

STATIONERS' HALL.

At a Court of Assistants held on Tuesday the 3rd day of November, 1863,
Notice being taken of the decease, since the last Court, of John Bowyer
Nichols, Esq. F.S.A. F L.S., a much respected member of the Court,

It was unanimously resolved,

“That this Court deeply regret the great loss they have sustained by the death of Mr. Nichols, who, while distinguished for his literary attainments, and remarkable for his kind and courteous disposition, ever took an anxious interest in the welfare of this Company, and at his own expense generously increased the benevolent charity founded by his late worthy Father for the benefit of freemen of the Company; and this Court desire to record their sense of the great respect and esteem in which the memory of Mr. Nichols must ever be revered by this Court.

(Signed)

CHARLES RIVINGTON,

Clerk.”

II.

CAMDEN SOCIETY.

At a Meeting of the Council of the Camden Society, held at No. 25, Parliament Street, Westminster, on Wednesday the 4th day of November, 1863, The Most Honourable the MARQUESS OF BRISTOL, the President, in the Chair,

The following Resolution, moved by WILLIAM TITE, Esq. M.P. V.P.S.A. and seconded by JOHN BRUCE, Esq. F.S.A., was agreed to unanimously:—

“The Council, at their first Meeting after the death of Mr. John Bowyer Nichols, beg to record their deep sense of the loss of a gentleman so eminently distinguished in antiquarian literature, and so warm a friend to this Society. They condole with his family on the melancholy occasion, and request the Secretary to communicate a copy of this Resolution, which the President will sign, to Messrs. Nichols.

(Signed at) St. James's Square,
Nov. 5, 1863.

BRISTOL,

President.”

APPENDIX.

III.

ROYAL LITERARY FUND.

At a Meeting of the General Committee held at 4, Adelphi Terrace, on Wednesday the 11th day of November, 1863, the Hon. Mr. Justice Haliburton, M.P., in the Chair, it was

“Resolved unanimously, on the motion of W. H. HARRISON, Esq., seconded by ROBERT BELL, Esq.,

“That this Committee hereby record their deep regret at the death of John Bowyer Nichols, Esq., who for so many years, and with so much zeal and efficiency, filled the office of Senior Registrar of the Royal Literary Fund; and at the same time offer to the survivors of his family the expression of their sincere condolence and hearty sympathy in the loss which they have sustained.

(Signed)

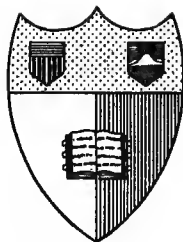
TH. C. HALIBURTON,

Chairman.”

IV.

Epitaph in the Cemetery at Kensal Green.

IOANNES . BOWYER . NICHOLS .
IOANNIS . FILIVS . LONDINENSIS .
TYPOGRAPHVS . ANTIQVARIVS .
FAMILIAS . PATER . AMANTISSVMVS .
DE . SVIS . OPTVME . MERITVS .
NATVS . ID . IVL . A . D . M . D . CC . LXX . IX .
DECESSIT . XIV . KAL . NOV . M . D . CCC . LX . III .



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